

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Defiance Metal Products

Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions

Defiance Metal Products Stays Competitive with Lean

Client Profile:

Defiance Metal Products (DMP) is a manufacturer of metal stamping and precision fabrication assemblies which include metal forming, CNC turret and laser cutting, robotic and manual welding, and epoxy coating. The company employs 275 people at its facility in Heber Springs, Arkansas.

Situation:

Due to ongoing competitive pressure, DMP requested assistance from Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to assess the current capabilities of their operations, allowing the company to develop a Lean manufacturing strategy to help address and prioritize key issues.

Solution:

AMS conducted a Lean assessment of the facility, and specific training and Kaizen support requirements were identified. AMS assisted DMP in the implementation of project work over an 18-month period that included: 1) Lean office training to streamline office operations; 2) HazWoper Refresher Training to improve safety; and 3) 5S training Kaizen implementation to establish a visual workplace to improve process flow, control shop inventory, and reduce set-up time. In total, the Lean initiatives had significant impact on the company's operations.

Results:

- * Increased sales by \$3 million.
- * Retained sales of \$36 million.
- * Realized \$204,000 in cost savings.
- * Created 50 new jobs.
- * Retained 240 jobs.

Testimonial:

"We thank you, Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions, for the support you have provided us the past few years. The grant support, training and all the project work has netted our facility thousands in savings. Lean is a tool that all companies can use to stay competitive. Thanks again to you and your team."

Rob Thomas , General Manager